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## GENE CARLSON NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT MONTANA

MISSOULA--

Gene Carlson was named head football coach at the University of Montana today. That announcement came from UM Athletic Director Harley Lewis, at a news conference in Missoula.

Carlson served as interim head football coach this past season, replacing Jack Swarthout who resigned June 14, 1975. A national search for a permanent head football coach was begun following the 1976 football season because a search could not be completed before the beginning of football practice in mid-August. Federal Equal Employment Opportunity practices require a national search.

"We in the athletic department are very pleased to have Gene Carlson be the official head football coach at the University of Montana," said Harley Lewis. "Gene did an outstanding job in a restricted situation as interim coach this past season. With Gene guiding the football program, the University can look forward to a new philosophy and a winning tradition."

"I'm very pleased to be named head football coach at the University of Montana," Carlson said. "I've dedicated my professional life to Montana football and am eager to build a quality football program at the University."

Carlson said he will work immediately on his coaching staff and hopes to have a staff assembled very soon. "We'll review all applications and assemble a staff from the most qualified individuals. It's desirable that these individuals be able to recruit Montana and the Pacific Northwest in order for us to have the best football program in the Big Sky Conference."

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Carlson said as soon as the assistants are hired, they will begin recruiting immediately.

Carlson served as an assistant coach and executive secretary of the Montana Century Club in 1974 and 1975. He is a native of Great Falls and a 1949 graduate of Great Falls High. Carlson has a health and physical education degree from the University of Montana (1954) and earned his M.S. in public administration from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (1967).

Carlson played linebacker and fullback for the 1950, '51 and '52 Grizzlies. He also played varsity baseball at UM and spent two years in the New York Yankee's organization after college. He served two years in the Air Force.

Carlson coached football at Great Falls High for 15 years, winning five Class AA championships and posting a 108-32-8 record before coming to UM in February of 1974.

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